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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BERNARD SANDERS, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, no good thing have You withheld from the children of humanity.

Lead our Senators today along productive paths. Teach them to give up the things that really don't matter: an opinion of their personal infallibility; a devotion to the trivial; a penchant for the petty; a tendency to equate their own well-being with the ongoing of the universe. Remind them that if they merely do what they please, they shall not be pleased with what they do. Give them grace to take up the cross of sacrificial service with the goal of pleasing You.

We pray in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BERNARD SANDERS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, February 13, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BERNARD SANDERS, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. SANDERS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business, with 1 hour equally divided, prior to a cloture vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2082, the Intelligence Authorization Act for 2008.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

On the majority side, I ask that the time of 30 minutes be divided, with 15 minutes for Senator FEINSTEIN, 10 minutes for Senator ROCKEFELLER, and 5 minutes for Senator WYDEN.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT EXTENSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the statement was made by the President in the Oval Office that he will refuse to sign a temporary extension of the current FISA law. This is a statement from the person who wants to unite, not divide. This is part of the Orwellian-speak we have had for 7 years out of the White House.

Let's be very clear. President Bush, obviously, is more interested in politicizing intelligence than finding solutions to the problems we are facing in

this difficult situation. Today, he continues to try to bully Congress. Let's not forget that we would not even be discussing this issue if not for his actions.

What were some of those actions? In their unyielding efforts to expand Presidential powers, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY created a system to conduct wiretapping, eavesdropping—including on American citizens—outside the bounds of longstanding Federal law. The President could easily have come to us and said: Let's change this law, and we would have gone along with probably little effort. But, no, he did not do that. He just went around the law, and when we passed the law to try to change it, he went around that too.

Congress has repeatedly amended the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to reflect new technology and the legitimate needs of the intelligence community. We have done that often and for good reason. But, whether out of convenience, incompetence, or disdain for the rule of law, this administration chose to ignore Congress and basically ignored the law, ignored the Constitution.

Congress is working updates to the FISA law as we speak. Senate Republicans and the White House have spent many weeks slow-walking the bill as part of the Republican strategy to jam the House. We have known that, we have talked about it, and they did a good job because we were not able to pass this bill until last night. I believe it is wrong and irresponsible for the White House to do this. Due to months of White House foot-dragging, the relevant House committees have only now just gotten important documents related to whether the Bush administration followed the law and the Constitution. I cannot speak about those documents on the floor, but people need time to review and analyze these documents. It is not four or five pages. So we must not let this critical issue be

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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